

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TAIPEI 03646 120222Z

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EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y F O R T E X T

FOR HOLBROOKE AND GLEYSTEEN FROM AMBASSADOR UNGER

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, TW, CH, US
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT CHIANG ON NORMALIZATION

1. RECENT PROMINENT US NON-OFFICIAL VISITORS TO TAIPEI HAVE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT CHIANG RECEIVED IMPRESSION THAT HE IS SOMEWHAT BAFFLED AS TO US GOVERNMENT INTENTIONS REGARDING TAIWAN.

2. PRESIDENT, SPEAKING VERY MUCH IN CONFIDENCE AND STATING HIS PRESUMPTION THAT USG WISHES GROC TO BE ABLE TO WEATHER GRAVE PROBLEMS WHICH FULL NORMALIZATION WILL SOONER OR LATER PRESENT FOR THEM, ASKS WHY IS US GOVERNMENT CURRENTLY CONDUCTING ITS BUSINESS IN SUCH FASHION AS TO UNDERMINE THE VERY CONFIDENCE OF TAIWAN'S PEOPLE WHICH WILL BE AN INDISPENSABLE ELEMENT IN PRESERVING STABILITY THROUGH THE DIFFICULT NORMALIZATION PROCESS.

3. CCK IN THIS CONTEXT HAS SPECIFICALLY COMMENTED TO THOSE VISITORS ON U.S. FAILURE TO RESPOND TO GROC WEAPONS AND MILITARY EQUIPMENT REQUESTS. HE ALSO REFERRED TO OUR SECRET

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CLOSING DOWN AND PULLING OUT USG ACTIVITIES (PRESUMABLY TAICHUNG AND TAINAN ICA PULLOUT ARE PRIME ILLUSTRATIONS OF THIS) AND OUR CUTTING TAIWAN OFF FROM CONTACT WITH HIGHER LEVEL US GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WHO APPEAR TO BE SPECIFICALLY PROHIBITED FROM VISITING TAIWAN.

4. PRESIDENT CHIANG'S COMMENTS SUGGEST, AS DID HIS

EARLIER REMARKS TO ME RE MAINTAINING OUR CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS DESPITE DIFFERENCES, THAT HE MAY BE BECOMING READY TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT HE IS THINKING ABOUT WEATHERING NORMALIZATION, NOT JUST OPPOSING IT, ALBEIT IN MOST GUARDED TERMS AND TO A VERY LIMITED AUDIENCE OF TRUSTED, NON-OFFICIAL AMERICANS WHOM HE REGARDS AS SYMPATHETIC TO GROC POSITION. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, I RECOMMEND WE INCREASE SOMEWHAT THE REASSURANCE SIDE OF OUR CONDITIONING/REASSURANCE EQUATION. WHILE I REALIZE THERE ARE OTHER CONSIDERATIONS INVOLVED IN THE ARMS TRANSFER DECISIONS, YOU SHOULD BE AWARE THAT IN TERMS OF WHAT WE WISH TO ACCOMPLISH HERE, NOW WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TIME TO GIVE CCK SOME RESPONSIVE WORD ON HIS PENDING ARMS REQUESTS. UNGER

SECRET

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